Closure of Textile Mills in Kerala

3848. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any sick textile mills in Kerala :

(b) what is the number of textile mills which have been closed down during the last three years in that State ;

(c) what is the quantum of loss suffered by each such mill till 30th July, 1988 ; and

(d) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to reopen the mills lying closed in Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) As on 30th June, 1988, there were 4 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills lying closed in Kerala One of these has been referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction All the four mills closed down during the last three years.

(c) The Union Government do not maintain profit and loss accounts of individual textile mills.

(d) A Nodal Agency has been set up to examine sick textile mills in order to ascertain whether they are potentially viable or not. The Nodal Agency evolves and manages rehabilitation packages for mills found to be potentially viable. A Textile Modernisation Fund has been created to meet the modernisation needs of weak textile mills. Further, a Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction has been constituted to consider the cases of textile companies coming within the purview of the Sick Industrial Companies Act. Non-viable mills may have to close down permanently.

Water Pollution

3851. Shri ARANGIL SREEDHARAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the standards of ambient quality for water pollution in India ;

(b) whether the present standards of ambient quality for water pollution in India are lower vis-a-vis to the standards of ambient quality for water pollution in USSR and USA; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to improve the standards of ambient quality for water pollution ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI). (a) Based on certain parameters of water quality, designated best use of water for different purposes like drinking water without treatment, drinking water with treatment, bathing, irrigation, etc. have been determined.

(b) These are generally comparable, but there are some variations due to climatic conditions, etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Violation of Central Instructions on the of use of wooden fixture by the Department of Education—Delhi Administration

3852. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have imposed complete ban on the use of wood, including teakwood for furniture and building construction in Government organisations and schools;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government of India had constituted an inter-Ministerial group to go into the whole gamut

of wood substitution to avoid relentless pressure on forests and to minimise and conserve the forests to preserve the environment and ecological balance;

(c) whether it is a fact that Department of Education, Delhi Administration has placed an order for 30,000 dual desks made of wood|teakwood in violation of Government instructions; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to bring Delhi Administration in line with Government policy ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) (a) The Central Government have issued instructions to restrict purchase of wooden furniture in Government offices, autonomous organisations and public sector undertakings.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Education Department, Delhi Administration have placed an order for 24,000 dual desks made of steel pipe frame with teak wood top on the basis of tenders approved in 1987-88.

(d) Instructions have been reiterated for compliance by Delhi Administration while procuring furniture for Government offices and schools in future.

Rise in cess on Domestic Steel and Pig Iron

3853. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to raise the cess on domestic steel and pig iron mobilise resources to finance the International Price Reimbursement Scheme (IPES) and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating its likely impact on the domestic prices of steel and pig iron and on the user industries in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b) Various alternatives for the augmentation of the funds of the International Price Reimbursement Scheme are under consideration.

Import of Concentrate Components

3854. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the current REP licences norms are likely to be revised in the case of soft drink|fruit juice concentrates to accommodate new projects;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Pepsi proposal envisages higher import content in the contentrate than Coca Cola required; and

(c) whether import of concentrate components is likely to be permitted in excess of current norms acceptable to local industry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration. However, the Import Policy is kept constantly under review, and amendments thereto are considered, as and when deemed necessary.

(b) and (c) The proposal submitted by Punjab Agro is still under consideration. It is premature to say anything in this regard.